

# Ever

Volume 1, Issue 2



# There

December 2010



## Combat Patches Awarded

*Sustaining the Fight*

# Inside This Issue

## Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan

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On the cover: 184th ESC Combat Patches wait to be awarded to unit Soldiers during the Nov. 15th Combat Patch ceremony. Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Sandra M. Palumbo



See archives of *Ever There* at [www.dvidshub.net](http://www.dvidshub.net)



Follow us at the Official Page of the 184th ESC and Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan

## From the Commander's Desk...

**T**he holiday season affords a great time to reflect on the many advantages and freedoms we enjoy, in particular, freedom of religion. Whether you celebrate Hanukkah or Christmas (or both), you do so without worry of persecution or harassment. Never take the right to worship as you choose for granted, or deny another's. Too many sacrificed too much for this expression of freedom - and so many would give so much for it.

Many generations of veterans shared the "away from home" experience during their time in a combat zone. While difficult in the present, most remember the experience fondly in later years. During this important spiritual time, remember to focus and celebrate on the meaning and events of the season.

This is also a time to focus on the family. While we are not home, we can remain connected through the mail, computer or telephone. It is important to contact your families and take part in the excitement of family gatherings, gift-giving and Santa Claus.

Those involved with Combined Joint Operations Area-Afghanistan food service are making every effort to provide traditional meals while offices are decorating to lift spirits. Go with the flow, get involved, and be part of the good feelings this time of year brings.

Some may also feel lonely or left out during this time.

Watch out for your battle buddy and seek



**Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher**  
**JSC-A Commanding General**

assistance if signs of depression appear. You may be the only link to help. This is one area where it is better to be "safe than sorry". Watch out for those around you.

Thank you for being here and performing your jobs each day. Take pride in your work and know that your efforts influence the work of others. The important functions you do tie directly to the success of our mission and the combined efforts in Afghanistan.

Remember, this is a happy and sacred time. We have much to be grateful for and look forward to. Reflect upon the real meaning of the holidays and spread the joy of the season to others.

***Merry Christmas!***

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## Warrior's Call

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I want to take this opportunity to wish all of you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I would like to especially thank your families for the sacrifices they are making while we are here in Afghanistan. Less than one percent of the nation's population serves in our military and you are in that one percent. I know the months of November and December can be especially difficult for us and our families.

We, as Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen have to come together and be a family within Afghanistan. We must use the "buddy system" and apply the five dimensions of Comprehensive Soldier Fitness to be resilient and overcome our difficulties. The five dimensions of strength are listed below.

### Physical

Performing and excelling in physical activities that require aerobic fitness, endurance, strength, healthy body composition and flexibility derived through exercise, nutrition and training.

### Emotional

Approaching life's challenges in a positive, optimistic way by demonstrating self-control, stamina and good character with your choices and actions.

### Social

Developing and maintaining

trusted, valued relationships and friendships that are personally fulfilling and foster good communication including a comfortable exchange of ideas, views, and experiences.

### Family

Being part of a family unit that is safe, supportive and loving, and provides the resources needed for all members to live in a healthy and secure environment.

### Spiritual

Strengthening a set of beliefs, principles or values that sustain a person beyond family, institutional, and societal sources of strength. For more information, contact your chaplain and/or visit this web site: <http://www.army.mil/csf/about.html>

Our most precious assets are our Soldiers. Our junior non-commissioned officers (NCOs), sergeants and staff sergeants, are the leaders of our formations and they are the eyes and ears of the Army.

Field Manual 22-7 states staff sergeants, sergeants and corporals are normally squad, section and team leaders and are a critical link in the NCO channel.

These NCOs live and work with their Soldiers every day and are responsible for their health, welfare and safety. These squad, section and team leaders ensure their Soldiers meet standards in personal



**Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey L. Riggs**  
JSC-A Command Sergeant Major

appearance and teach them to maintain and account for their individual and unit equipment and property.

The NCO enforces standards and develops and trains Soldiers daily in military occupational specialty skills and unit missions.

The NCO teaches individual and collective training, develops unit cohesion, fosters the values of loyalty and commitment and builds spirit and confidence. The NCO evaluates performance-oriented training and through coaching and counseling grooms young Soldiers for future positions of increased responsibility. Squad, section and team leaders teach everything from the making of sound and timely decisions to physical training to ethics and values. You, corporals and sergeants, are the basic trainer of today's Soldiers.

***"NCOs, the backbone of the Army"***

## Soldier Support Web sites

*Check out these websites to sign up for care packages and support while deployed.*

<http://www.forgottensoldiers.org>

<http://www.hoffman-foundation.com>

<http://www.thehugsproject.com>

<http://www.operationcomixrelief.org>

<http://operationspiritinc.com>

<http://www.operationtroopaid.org>

<http://www.momscookies.org>

<http://www.packagesfromhome.org>

<https://www.dunkindonuts.com>

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# 184th ESC Earns Combat Patches

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*Story by Sgt. Kenny Hatten  
JSC-A Public Affairs*

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Petty Officer 1st Class Sandra Palumbo | JSC-A PAO  
**Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Riggs places the 184th ESC insignia on the uniform of Pfc. Glenn Caylor. Caylor received the first patch because he is the youngest Soldier of the unit.**



Master Sgt. Bobby C. Patrick | JSC-A



Petty Officer 1st Class Sandra Palumbo | JSC-A PAO

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan-

Soldiers of the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command (ESC) were awarded wartime service insignia during a ceremony at Kandahar Airfield on Nov. 15.

184th ESC Commander Brig. Gen. Philip Fisher and Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Riggs presided over the ceremony, and placed the first 184th shoulder sleeve insignia to be awarded in a combat zone onto the uniform of Pfc. Glenn Caylor of Sandersville, Mississippi.

“It is a great honor to be part of this ceremony; the first-ever awarding of the 184th patch as a combat patch,” said Fisher. “The men and women receiving their patches today earned this honor and Mississippians should be proud of this unit’s great heritage.”

The 184th ESC is currently forward deployed and assumed responsibilities for Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan, October 17. The unit directs all logistics and sustainment operations for American, Coalition and Afghan forces.

“I’m extremely proud of these Soldiers,” said Riggs. “Their earning of the combat patch is symbolic of the sacrifices they’re making in the defense of our nation and the great state of Mississippi.”

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**(Center photo) Col. Craig M. Weaver presents Chief Warrant Officer 4 John E. Bourne the 184th ESC combat patch aboard a C-130 military aircraft. 12 Soldiers of the 184th ESC were awarded combat patches in flight close to the same time a patch ceremony was being conducted on KAF. (Bottom photo) Soldiers of the 184th ESC place their awarded combat patches on their right sleeves during a ceremony held at Kandahar Airfield.**

# Skyping With Soldier Dad

**WCBI ARTICLE**

Story by Joey Barnes, November 11th  
Photos by 1st Lt. Andrew B. Adcock



Diego Corrigan's Pre-K class interacts with Maj. Juan Corrigan, a JSC-A Soldier as they Skype, Nov. 11.

COLUMBUS, Miss. (WCBI) - A youngster at Annunciation Catholic School, in Columbus, gets a surprise chat from his father who is serving in Afghanistan.

Maj. Juan Corrigan Skyped with the Pre-K class at the school, where his son Diego is a student.

The elder Corrigan says Soldiers are doing their part to do what is right for the country and he misses his family.

He chatted with the students and thanked them for their support.

It's the first time Corrigan has Skyped the classroom, although he and his son Skype nearly every day.

Skype is a quick and easy way for troops and their families to keep in touch.

The Starkville Soldier will get some time at home during the holidays and is scheduled to return from his tour in Afghanistan next summer.



Maj. Juan Corrigan Skypes with his son's Pre-K class from his room located in a modular housing unit on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

## JSC-A celebrates Veteran's Day



Soldiers of the of the Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan, bow their heads as Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Edward R. Coutta says a prayer during a Veteran's Day observance at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. The flag is at half-staff in remembrance of a fallen Marine killed earlier in the week.

# Soldiers Serving Soldiers



*Photos by 1st Lt. Andrew B. Adcock  
JSC-A Public Affairs*

Soldiers of the Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan volunteered to serve forward deployed troops on Kandahar Airfield (KAF) Thanksgiving dinner.

A traditional Thanksgiving dinner was served on KAF in the Harvest Falcon 2, Niagara and Independence Hall dining facilities. Dinner included turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, macaroni and cheese, stuffing and various desserts.



Master Sgt. Earnest W. Burton (left) of Mize serves ice cream to Sgt. Maj. Joseph J. Elder of Hattiesburg during Thanksgiving day lunch at Kandahar Airfield. Both are members of JSC-A.



Master Sgt. Willie E. Smith (left) of Baton Rouge, LA, serves a slice of pecan pie to Master Sgt. Michael L. Box of Eupora during Thanksgiving day lunch



Maj. Rollin Roberts of Bogue Chitto (left) and Col. Craig M. Weaver of Brookhaven volunteer to serve Thanksgiving dinner in Afghanistan.



(From left to right) Lt. Col. David Jolly of Clinton, Brig. Gen. Phil Fisher of Clinton, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jeff Riggs of Vicksburg, serve lunch to Soldiers Thanksgiving day at Kandahar Airfield.

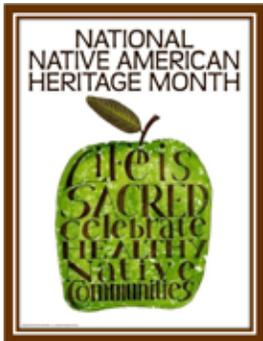


Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Edward R. Coutta (left) of Ellisville and Sgt. 1st Class William L. Davis, Chaplain Assistant, of Ecrú, take a break from serving lunch to Soldiers on Thanksgiving day.

# KAF Celebrates Native American Heritage Month



*Story by Petty Officer 1st Class Sandra M. Palumbo, JSC-A Public Affairs  
Photos by 1st Lt. Andrew B. Adcock, JSC-A Public Affairs*



Kandahar Air Field (KAF) Equal Opportunity Advisors hosted a Native American Heritage Month celebration Friday, Nov. 26.

The event was held in the Fest Tent on KAF and included a native prayer, seven static display booths and closing remarks from Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher, commanding general of the Joint

Sustainment Command-Afghanistan.

After the ceremony, participants enjoyed food samplings of traditional Native American foods and browsed the booths that paid tribute to the Crazy Horse Apache Tribe, Paiute Tribe, Blackfoot Tribe, Zuni Tribe, Choctaw Tribe and U.S. Army helicopters named after Native American tribes.



**Chief Warrant Officer 2 David Hardigree and Sgt. Byron Clark, both of JSC-A, discuss the life and accomplishments of the famous Oglala Lakota war leader, Crazy Horse, with participants as they visit a booth at the Native American celebration.**



**Spc. Kenya Clark and Spc. Kaya Durr of JSC-A enjoy traditional Native American foods after browsing the static displays during the Native American celebration.**



**Sgt. 1st Class Rosie Sorrells of JSC-A discusses the Choctaw tribe with participants of the Native American celebration.**

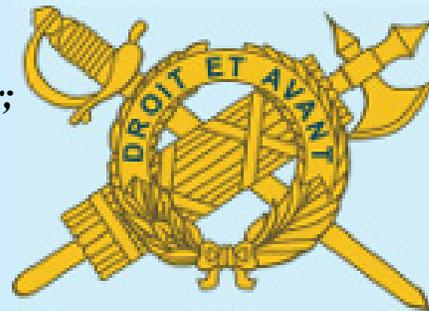


**Brig. Gen. Fisher gives closing remarks during the Native American celebration.**

## *From the Inspector General's office...*

*When you see someone in a uniform, someone who serves us all,  
Doing military duty, answering their country's call,  
Take a moment to thank them; for protecting what you hold dear;  
Tell them you are proud of them; make it very clear.  
Just tap them on the shoulder, give a smile, and say,  
“Thanks for what you're doing to keep us safe in the USA!”*

*Thank a Soldier  
By Joanna Fuchs*



## THE COMBAT PATCH

Let's talk about some Service members' favorite subject; the Shoulder Sleeve Insignia-Former Wartime Service (SSI-FWTS) which is affectionally known as the "Combat Patch". What most people don't know is that the SSI-FWTS has only been around since 1945 and its intent was identifying Soldiers who participated with large units while conducting combat operations. More so, unit patches have only been around since World War I, when Soldiers of the 81st Division created and wore a distinctive black cat on an olive drab disk so they could identify each other quickly in combat. The unit patch was not officially approved until Oct. 19, 1918 when the adjutant general, American forces, sent a telegram to the division's commanding general, approving the wear of the SSI.

When talking about the SSI-FWTS, four questions come to mind. Who can wear the SSI-FWTS? Which one do you wear? Can you wear any SSI-FWTS that you want to wear? How long do I have to be in theater to wear the SSI-FWTS? Well, to answer the first question, All Army Activities Message (ALARACT) 055-2007 states that all company size units or higher, who are deployed in support of combat operations, will wear "their unit SSI as the SSI-FWTS." The patch that is worn on your left sleeve is now

worn on your right as well. This precedent was established in Vietnam for all the units that were organic to or an integral part of an organization. If you are authorized more than one SSI-FWTS, you may choose any of the ones you have earned. However, you do not have to wear one at all if you so choose.

To answer the third question, can I wear any SSI-FWTS I want? Well, the answer is no. The only time Soldiers will earn an SSI-FWTS of a unit, other than their own, is if their unit is smaller than a company and augmented to another deployed unit, company size or greater. Another exception is if you, as an individual, are attached, cross-leveled, or assigned to another unit other than your own. Then, you can wear the deployed unit's SSI-FWTS. Finally, to answer the question of how long you must be in theater to receive a SSI-FWTS? In the past, you were required to be deployed in a theater of operations for at least 30 consecutive days. Per ALARACT 055-2007, there is no longer a minimum time requirement.

Wearing the SSI-FWTS is a matter of pride in yourself and pride in your unit. ALARACT 055-2007 gives you the option of wearing the SSI-FWTS of a previous unit or the unit you are currently assigned. Remember, you are a member of a unique team, making history, of which you should be proud.

# Loaded Soldiers and Loaded Weapons – A Deadly Combination

 Story by Lt. Col. David F. Jolly, JSC-A Public Affairs

The Soldier lay dead in a pool of blood, killed not by the enemy, but by his battle buddy. The two Soldiers, after becoming intoxicated, had decided to play a game of Russian roulette. This is a tragic drama no one wants to see played out. Loaded Soldiers and loaded weapons are a lethal combination.

The consumption of alcohol is banned for military personnel in Afghanistan and Iraq under U. S. Central Command's General Order No. 1. This policy has come under criticism from some who say if they can give their life for their country, they should have the right to drink alcohol. I disagree. There are a number of reasons why this policy protects Soldiers from themselves and increases military readiness.

What about those who might say drinking alcohol is healthy?

According to an April 24 article entitled Alcohol, Wine and Cardiovascular Disease, found on the American Heart Association website, research shows drinking red wine in moderation may increase good cholesterol due to its antioxidants and may reduce the risk of heart attack due to containing resveratrol. Many might consider this as an endorsement to drink alcohol.

However, this is not the case. The American Heart Association does not recommend drinking wine or any other form of alcohol to gain these potential benefits, because there are safer alternatives.

Superior results can be achieved through exercise, eating a healthy diet and drinking purple grape juice. There is no scientific proof drinking wine or any other alcoholic beverage can replace these common sense measures, and heavy drinking can actually increase the risk of heart failure, stroke, and high blood pressure, as well as cause many other medical

problems, such as liver cirrhosis.

What about those who might say alcohol reduces stress and helps them relax?

In combat, where split-second decisions count, a person's mental and physical state can mean the difference between life and death.

**- ALCOHOL**  
**Continued on pg. 12**



**YOU AND YOUR WEAPON  
NEVER HAVE BOTH LOADED  
AT THE SAME TIME**

**Never handle a weapon  
under the influence.**  
Alcohol was identified as a factor in  
many fatal off-duty privately owned  
weapons handling accidents.

**RANGE & WEAPONS  
SAFETY TOOLBOX**

**CHECK IT  
OUT TODAY!**

<https://safety.army.mil/rangeweaponssafety>

  **ARMY SAFE  
IS ARMY STRONG**  **I BAND OF BROTHERS  
& SISTERS**

## *From the Unit Ministry Team...*

The 184th Unit Ministry Team would like to wish everyone a very blessed and Merry Christmas.

We know Christmas is a wonderful time of celebrating the Christ's birth along with the gifts and meals that often accompany this time of year.

However, we also know that being away from home and loved ones while deployed here in Afghanistan can be difficult and challenging.

The good news is that even if we are away from those we love we can still find comfort, peace, purpose and meaning where we are stationed.

You see, Christ's birth was a little noticed event that would transform the nature of the world.

The consequence of the birth of Jesus Christ and His life was the extension of freedom and hope for all people.

Through Him, one can have freedom from the justly-deserved consequences of sin and hope for life everlasting.

So, what does this have to do with being away from loved ones during the Christmas holidays?

It means that those who follow Christ can adopt the attitude of Paul when he wrote, "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret to being content in any and every situation, whether well-fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength."

We pray that this Christmas season while being away from loved ones that you will allow Christ to give you strength in your personal situation to see you through. God bless!

## *This Month in Army History*

### **1700s**

**1775**-- Birthday of cavalry/armor. On Dec. 12, Congress authorizes the first regiment of light dragoons.

**1776**--The night of Dec. 25-26, George Washington leads his army across the Delaware River in a surprise attack on the Hessian garrison at Trenton, N.J.

**1777**--Winter at Valley Forge, Pa. By spring, 2,000 Soldiers will die of disease and cold.

### **1800s**

**1802**--The Corps of Engineers adopts a new uniform on Dec. 3. One element is a brass button incorporating a bastion, eagle and the Engineer Corps' motto: Essayons, or "Let Us Try."

**1862**--The Army of the Potomac crosses the Rappahannock River at Fredericksburg, Va., on Dec. 13, but suffers a serious defeat at the hands of well-prepared Confederate defenders.

### **1900s**

**1906**--The Department of War directs the first use of metal identification tags, soon nicknamed "dog tags" by Soldiers.

**1943**--At Fort Benning, Ga., the first black airborne company is formed, later becoming part of the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion.

**1945**--Gen. George S. Patton is injured in an automobile accident near Mannheim, Germany, on Dec. 9, and dies 12 days later.

**1956**--The last two Army pack-mule units, the 35th Quartermaster Company and Battery A of the 4th Field Artillery Battalion, are inactivated at Fort Carson, Colo. The Army also discontinues the use of carrier pigeons.

**1976**--The Borman Commission report on the cheating scandal at West Point recommends retention of the cadet honor code and changes in the violation-reporting system.

**1977**--Defense Secretary Clifford Alexander approves women serving in most NCO and officer positions in noncombat units.

**1989**--U.S. forces invade Panama, Dec. 20, overthrowing the government of Manuel Noriega. Wanted on drug charges, Noriega surrenders on Jan. 3, 1990.

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# Hatch Meets with JSC-A Leadership

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 Photos by 1st Lt. Andrew B. Adcock, JSC-A Public Affairs

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Retired Col. Richard G. Hatch, Deputy to the Deputy Commanding General (DCG) - Support Director of Strategic Plans, provides strategic planning guidance on operational sustainment issues affecting the Combined Joint Operations Area-Afghanistan during a meeting Nov. 13th with Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan's (JSC-A) senior leadership.



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## - ALCOHOL Continued from pg. 10

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The wellness website for West Virginia University defines alcohol as a mind-altering depressant drug that can help a person feel more relaxed or less anxious. It actually blocks some of the messages trying to get to the brain. This alters a person's perceptions, emotions, movement, vision and hearing. The more a person drinks, the stronger the depressant effect. Some of the effects include decreasing the ability to react swiftly to situations, slowing reaction time, blurred vision, impaired night vision, color perception, ability to concentrate, inability to make rational decisions, and reduced eye, hand, and foot coordination.

West Virginia University's research showed it can take the body up to three hours to metabolize as few as two beers.

On the unconventional battlefield, a Soldier must remain vigilant at all times. There are no rear areas.

"There is an inherent danger in a combat zone that requires every Soldier's complete attention and preparation for any contingency. The opportunity for accidents, either vehicle against vehicle or vehicle against person is a real threat that increases with the consumption of alcohol and subsequent clouding of judgment. Finally, all military personnel carry live ammunition and the possibility of an accidental discharge increases as the effects of alcohol alter the thought process," said Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher, commander, Joint Sustainment Command, November

20, regarding the alcohol ban in Afghanistan. He is on his second deployment in four years to southwest Asia.

"For the months of October and November, 11 alcohol-related incidents took place at Kandahar Airfield. Of these, nine resulted in arrests and disciplinary actions. Two resulted with injuries. What's important to remember is these incidents could have been prevented," said JSC-A Provost Marshal Maj. Jacqueline Corley, Dec. 1.

What about those who say the consumption of alcohol builds esprit de corps and social interaction?

While social activities do contribute to teamwork and cohesion, I would suggest that knowing fellow Soldiers are willing to give their lives for you is the epitome of esprit de corps. It has nothing to do with drinking alcohol. It's the relationship between Soldiers, their character, and the trust they develop. Ask yourself this question. Had I rather have someone in my unit who can hold their liquor or someone who lives the Army values? Who would you trust with your life?

Soldiers should abstain from drinking alcohol, not because it's a violation of General Order No. 1, but because it's the right thing to do. Not only do you want to protect the Soldiers in your unit, you want them to protect you. Your lives depend on each other. Remember, there's nothing heroic about dying or being injured due to the effects of alcohol. Before you take a drink, think about it. The life you save may be your own.

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## *Chaplain's Message...by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Ramsey Coutta*

Please let me introduce myself. I am Chaplain Ramsey Coutta and I serve as the Family Life Chaplain (FLC) for the Joint Sustainment Command.

As an FLC in theater, one of the areas I focus is on the well-being of our Service members. I would like to discuss a problem that Service members might experience that negatively affects their emotional well-being. The problem is Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or PTSD.

Most of us have heard of PTSD but maybe we all don't know exactly what it is. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, PTSD is an anxiety disorder that can develop after exposure to a terrifying event or ordeal in which grave physical harm occurred or was threatened.

Traumatic events that may trigger PTSD include violent personal assaults, natural or human-caused disasters, accidents, or military combat. Sometimes Service members have symptoms of PTSD but don't realize this is what they are dealing with.

Let me share with you the

symptoms of PTSD so you can have better insight. Symptoms include:

### **1. Re-experiencing symptoms:**

- Flashbacks—reliving the trauma over and over, including physical symptoms like a racing heart or sweating
- Bad dreams
- Frightening thoughts.

Re-experiencing symptoms may cause problems in a person's everyday routine. They can start from the person's own thoughts and feelings. Words, objects or situations that are reminders of the event can also trigger re-experiencing.

### **2. Avoidance symptoms:**

- Staying away from places, events, or objects that are reminders of the experience
- Feeling emotionally numb
- Feeling strong guilt, depression, or worry
- Losing interest in activities that were enjoyable in the past
- Having trouble remembering the dangerous event.

Things that remind a person of the traumatic event can trigger avoidance symptoms. These

symptoms may cause a person to change his or her personal routine. For example, after a bad car accident, a person who usually drives may avoid driving or riding in a car.

### **3. Hyperarousal symptoms:**

- Being easily startled
- Feeling tense or "on edge"
- Having difficulty sleeping, and/or having angry outbursts.

Instead of being triggered by things that remind one of the traumatic event, hyperarousal symptoms are usually constant. They can make the person feel stressed and angry. These symptoms may make it hard to do daily tasks, such as sleeping, eating or concentrating.

If after reviewing these symptoms you think you might have PTSD, I would strongly encourage you to talk with your unit chaplain, medic or a combat stress control team representative.

On Kandahar Airfield, the combat stress control team representative is located at Role 2. You can also stop by the Chaplain Ministry Center (CMC). You can heal from PTSD and these caregivers can help. God bless.

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## **Contractors Work With JSC-A in the Intelligence Section**

 *Story by Maj. Juan Corrigan, JSC-A J2 (Intelligence) Section*

Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan's J-2 (Intelligence) section has welcomed civilian contractors to its team. This is the first time the section has had the opportunity to work with civilian contractors in the intelligence field.

The contractors' analytical skills and experience help the J-2

section assess possible threats to sustainment operations in Afghanistan.

Many contractors have prior military experience and skills that they developed during their service and deployments; our personnel are no exception.

After leaving the military, some

Service members decide to become contractors, and they receive comprehensive training in order to become experts in their fields, to better assist the military.

**- J2  
Continued on pg. 20**

# Cards to Soldiers Defies Odds, Finds Cousin in Afghanistan

Source:

*Madison County Journal*

By **MATT STUART**

Karlea Winstead is a sweet and caring 5th grader who prays for Soldiers overseas because her family has a long history of military service.

She sat in her class at Madison Crossing Elementary recently designing a card to send to a Soldier serving overseas as part of a school project.

“I didn’t know who it was going to,” Karlea said. “I just started out with ‘Dear Soldier.’”

The card was supposed to be to an anonymous Soldier, but it ended up in the hands of her second cousin, Sergeant First Class Jeffery Winstead of Madison.

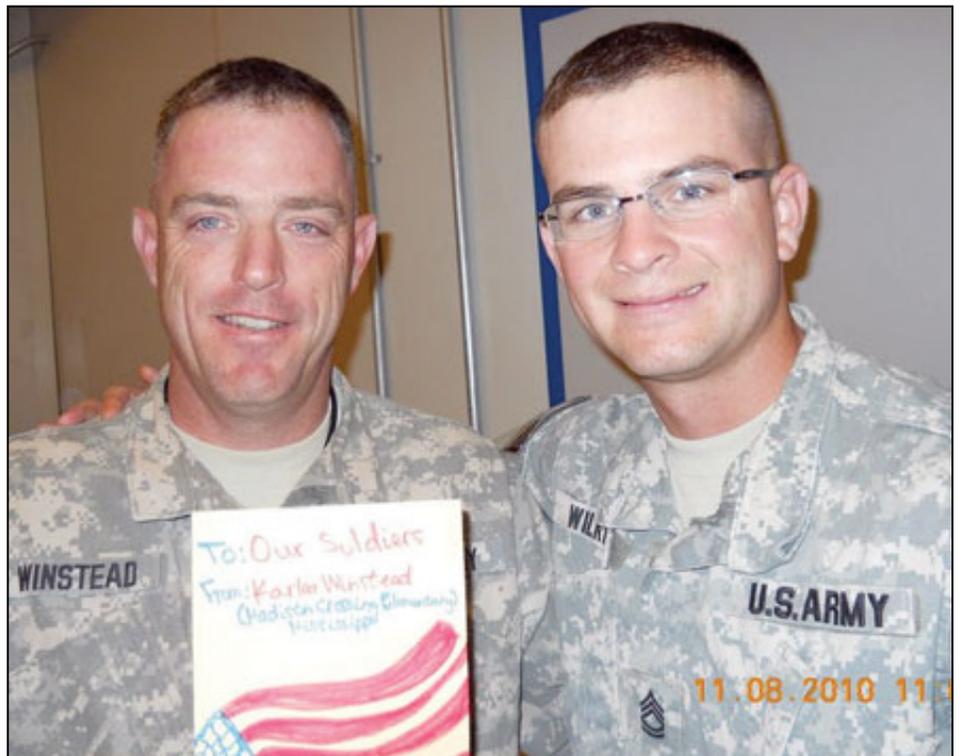
To Karlea’s family, it was no coincidence.

“To me, that’s God at work,” said Mark Winstead, Karlea’s father and Jeffery’s first cousin. “Accidents like that don’t just happen.”

After serving a tour in Iraq right after 9/11, Winstead was deployed again on Aug. 3 and arrived in Afghanistan Oct. 8. Winstead is stationed in the Kandahar Province with the 184 Expeditionary Sustainment Command out of Laurel.

Jeffery Winstead expressed his surprise in an email from Afghanistan.

“As I read the card from her I had tears streaming down my face,” he wrote. “It was a mix of emotions as I thought of my own children and Mark and his children.”



Karlea’s class, along with other second, third, fourth and fifth grade classes at Madison Crossing, put together “thank you” cards that were sent to Soldiers overseas. The students did not address their

letters to anyone in particular.

In her letter, Karlea thanked who she thought would be an unknown

**- ODDS  
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## - ODDS

### Continued from pg. 14

Soldier for protecting the country and that she liked the Toby Keith song “American Soldier.”

“I told him I don’t have the fear of going to bed or the war coming to the U.S. because they are protecting us.”

Karlea thanked the recipient and also noted that her cousin Jeffery was over there. For Karlea, being aware and appreciative of the Soldiers isn’t just prompted by Veterans Day this week.

“I knew that my grandparents,

uncles, and my dad had all been Soldiers,” she said. “We had talked about it before.”

Her father Mark served active duty before Karlea was born and with so many relatives having spent time in the military, the Winsteads had discussed what serving means with Karlea.

“I was thinking about him when I wrote it,” she said, “but I didn’t think he would get it.”

Monday evening, after a soccer game, Karlea’s mother Brande grabbed Karlea and showed her pictures from Facebook of Jeffery with the letter.

Karlea couldn’t believe it.

“I was astonished,” she said. “My mom handed me the phone and when I saw it I was so happy.”

Jeffrey Winstead has been married to Timony Winstead from Lena for 17 years. They have a 12-year-old son, Bryce, who attends Madison Middle School, as well as an 18-month-old daughter, Jayden.

He has spent the last six years working with the 47th Civil Support Team / Weapons of Mass Destruction response unit.

Before that Winstead was a firefighter with the city of Ridgeland.

## Support Operation’s Corner

*By: Capt. Bridget Armstrong*

The Soldiers of the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command (ESC), Support Operations (SPO) continue to do an extraordinary job of performing their logistical mission. Every branch has certainly shouldered the load in making Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan (JSC-A) successful, but the Mobility Branch has been a driving force behind many of SPO’s latest accomplishments.

“During our Pre-Mobilization training, we heard that Mobility is the ‘Center of Gravity’ for the SPO. I understood that, but did not truly realize the magnitude of that moniker until we arrived in Afghanistan and began working,” said Mobility Branch Chief, Lt.

Col. Harry Gunter. “If you look at the biggest issues going on today - Host Nation Trucking I and II, Afghan Trucking Network, Direct Support Air, R&R, Holiday Mail Surge, and Container Management, to name a few - we are right in there either taking the lead or assisting our team.”

The Mobility Branch has actively engaged in building relationships with subordinate units as well as advising commanders on the best use of available air assets for movement of personnel and cargo in a timely manner.

After it was brought to JSC-A’s attention that there was a delay in moving Soldiers returning from R&R back to their forward operating bases (FOBs), the Mobility Air Team made contact with unit commanders, executive officers, mobility officers, and liaison officers (LNOs) to provide them with resources to ensure they were making the best use of assets available to get Soldiers back in the fight. This situation is just one

instance in which the SPO Mobility Branch has taken the initiative to solve small issues before they become logistical nightmares.

“I am fortunate to have a great staff that is willing to put in the long hours, hard work and make the tough decisions,” said Gunter. “I would be remiss not to specifically mention our Joint Air Force and Navy team members and civilian contractors, though. They bring years of experience and different perspectives and skill sets to the table, making it possible to cross the inter-service divide.”

Day after day, SPO encounters a multitude of logistical issues. The Soldiers of the 184th ESC commit themselves daily to working with their subordinate units and consistently providing first class support to the war fighters throughout the theater. In the end, the entire 184th team is performing at a Ph. D. level, bringing logistics within the Combined Joint Operational Area (CJOA) to a new dimension.

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## *From the Headquarter's Company Commander...*

On Dec. 1, 2008, I assumed command of Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) of the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command (ESC).

Ten minutes after the change of command ceremony, I was administering an annual army physical fitness test for the unit. It seems like yesterday (and decades ago) that I began working with the unit, and it was a whirlwind of activity from the start.

There were many training events in the first year: Individual Weapons Qualification at Camp McCain, Sling Load Training a couple of times and a three week Annual Training on the Caspian Sea at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center (CSJFTC). The year-long pre-mobilization training for the current deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom went really quickly, but seemed to take forever. I lost track of the number of weekend drills that we conducted. Then there was the short deployment back to CSJFTC for 40 days, and then

the Culminating Training Exercise (CTE) at North Fort Hood for two months.

Looking back, I think of all the Soldiers I worked with during my time in command. There were many long nights and even earlier mornings during our preparation for deployment. I would like to thank the Soldiers who assisted me throughout our mobilization, especially the HHC Soldiers. Being in HHC is unique unto itself, but to be in an "ESC" HHC is like no other animal. The two dozen to sometimes three or four dozen HHC Soldiers truly are the motor that makes an ESC drive down the road.

As much as I have enjoyed my time as company commander, I look forward to passing the torch to Capt. Tawaski Carter. Good luck and may God bless him, HHC and all the Soldiers and civilians working together in JSC-A. EVER THERE!

- Capt. Gary L. Crist  
HHC Commander, JSC-A



Every unit has a designated safety officer which is often an individual serving in a leadership position. While it is that leader's duty to mitigate safety hazards in the workplace and domicile, every safety hazard is not always foreseen.

The Army has created a process that enables Service members to identify hazards, mitigate the risk, and assess the risk associated with any activity a unit may partake in. This process is formally known as the Composite Risk Management (CRM) process. Moreover, with the use of the CRM process, anyone is capable of performing the same duties to keep themselves and others safe. The CRM process is broken down into two main phases; assessing risk and managing risk. During the assessing phase, the task is

to identify hazards and assess hazards. With that said, all one has to do is take the time to consider what could possibly go wrong while performing the task. Once that is complete, the Service member must manage the risk by developing controls, making decisions, and implementing the control. During this phase of the CRM, the Service member has to identify ways to reduce the likelihood and severity of an accident. This can be as simple as tying down ammo cans before a convoy or using a spotter while lifting weights.

By nature, Service members are faced with unforeseen dangers by living in a combat area. As a result of doing these simple steps, every Service member is a safety officer and is empowered to prevent serious accidents from occurring.

- 1st Lt. Rodney L. Hall Jr.  
JSC-A Safety OIC  
rodney.hall@afghan.swa.army.mil  
DSN: (318) 421- 7113



# MyCAA FACT SHEET

Source: <https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa>.

**The Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts Program (MyCAA)** is a career development and employment

assistance program sponsored by the Department of Defense (DoD). MyCAA helps military spouses pursue licenses, certificates, certifications or associate degrees (excluding general studies and liberal arts) necessary for gainful employment in high demand, high growth portable career fields and occupations.

**As part of the Military Spouse's Career Lifecycle, MyCAA offers the following:**

## Training and Education Financial Assistance:

**MyCAA provides a maximum education benefit of \$4,000 with an annual fiscal year cap of \$2,000 to assist eligible military spouses who need professional credentials to meet their portable career goals.** Annual cap waivers are available if there is an upfront tuition cost that exceeds \$2,000 (up to the maximum education benefit of \$4,000).

## Employment Readiness Counseling:

Counseling services are provided to all military spouses married to active duty service members of all ranks, regardless of their eligibility to receive MyCAA financial assistance and their desire to pursue higher levels of education. Counseling services help military spouses identify additional sources of federal, state and local financial assistance, expanded career choices and opportunities, and support resources (e.g. child care, transportation, books, computers, equipment, supplies, etc.).

## Employment Assistance and Career Services:

Referrals are made to networks of military friendly employers for MyCAA spouse participants who have completed their programs of study using

MyCAA funding and who are ready to seek gainful employment.

## **Who is eligible for MyCAA Financial Assistance?**

- Spouses of service members on active duty in pay grades E-1 to E-5, W-1 to W-2, and O-1 to O-2 who can start and complete their coursework while their military sponsor is on Title 10 military orders, including spouses married to members of the National Guard and Reserve Components in these same pay grades.

## **Those who are not eligible include:**

- Spouses married to service members in pay grades: E-6 and above; W-3 and above; and O-3 and above :
- Spouses who are a member of the armed forces themselves currently on Title 10 orders
- Spouses who are married but legally separated (or under court order or statute of any state or US territory) from a member of the armed forces on Title 10 orders
- Spouses whose National Guard/Reserve Component military sponsor is in a Warning Orders/Alert, Post Deployment/Demobilization or Transition Status
- Spouses married to a member of the Coast Guard
- Spouses who have participated in the DoD-DoL Career Advancement Accounts (CAA) Pilot Program
- Spouses who are unable to start and complete their course(s) while their military sponsor is on Title 10 orders

**- Education  
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## - Education

### Continued from pg. 17

#### What will MyCAA pay for?

- Tuition costs for education and training courses and examinations leading to an associate degree (excluding general studies and liberal arts), license, certificate or certification at an accredited college, university, or technical school in the United States or approved testing organization that expands employment or portable career opportunities for military spouses.

#### MyCAA will NOT pay for the following:

- Tuition for courses and examinations that are not included in the spouse's education and training plan and those that have already started or been completed by the spouse
- Reimbursements of any kind
- Books, supplies, equipment, uniforms, computers and electronic devices of any kind
- Student activities, events and entertainment
- Pre-payment/deposits for future courses, unless costs are part of a block of study
- School or college level entrance examinations, comprehensive exams and related preparatory courses
- Courses, tests or fees normally paid by an employer as part of a job training program
- Non-academic credit or ungraded courses, including courses taken on an audit basis or as an internship, practicum, apprenticeship, or clinical supervision; also, orientation programs that are non-academic credit or ungraded
- Courses taken more than one time unless MyCAA has received a full refund from the school
- Academic credit by examination tests (e.g. CLEP, etc.)

- General Studies and Liberal Arts Associate degrees
- Personal enrichment courses (excluding courses that are academic credit/graded electives in an approved MyCAA Spouse Education and Training Plan)
- Transportation, lodging, child care, and medical services
- Course extensions (except for approved hardship waivers)
- Study Abroad Programs (excluding programs of study offered by participating MyCAA schools on overseas military bases)

#### How can you establish a MyCAA Account?

Visit the MyCAA Spouse Portal online at <https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa>. Provide required spouse profile information. A real-time DEERS eligibility check will confirm if you meet MyCAA eligibility requirements so you can move forward and establish your MyCAA Account. Those who do not pass this check will be provided additional guidance.

#### How can you provide MyCAA with feedback?

Visit [MyCAAFeedback@militaryonesource.com](mailto:MyCAAFeedback@militaryonesource.com) to send MyCAA your ideas and recommendations. Visit Contact Us (<https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa>) to provide information about your MyCAA program experience once you have found gainful employment.

#### How can you get additional information or assistance?

Call 1-800-342-9647 to speak with a MyCAA career and education consultant or, if you already have an established MyCAA Account, use your message box as the fastest way to receive information and assistance.

**School representatives should** visit the "For School" resource page on the MyCAA spouse portal for program eligibility, participation and contact information.

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# Father and Son Reunite in Afghanistan

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*Story by Lt. Col. David F. Jolly & 1st Lt. Andrew B. Adcock JSC-A Public Affairs*

It's not often a father and son visit in a combat zone, but that's exactly what happened when Staff Sgt. Robert W. Pharris, a Missouri Army National Guardsman, reunited with his son, Cpl. Benjamin J. Pharris, a Marine, at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, Nov. 17.

The last time the two had seen each other was Christmas 2009, when Cpl. Pharris was home on leave.

Staff Sgt. Pharris is currently serving in Afghanistan on his first deployment as a member of the Nangarhar Agri-Business Development Team IV, with Task Force Bastogne.

"We're one component of rebuilding the Afghan infrastructure. We take graduates from Nangarhar University and work with them as they improve their agricultural and farming skills so they can sustain themselves and solve their own problems," said Staff Sgt. Pharris.

First enlisting in the Army in 1981, and later in the Army National Guard, Staff Sgt. Pharris has more than 14 years of service in a variety of assignments. Primarily serving as an infantryman, he has also served as a drill sergeant and recruiter. After leaving military service in 1997 and experiencing an 11-year break, Staff Sgt. Pharris re-joined the Missouri Army National Guard



1st Lt. Andrew B. Adcock | JSC-A PAO

**Staff Sgt. Robert W. Pharris (left), a Missouri Army National Guardsman, reunited with his son, Cpl. Benjamin J. Pharris, a Marine, in Kandahar, Afghanistan.**

in 2008, after he learned that an infantry unit was being formed.

"I surprised my son by having him show up at my re-enlistment ceremony. He had no idea I was re-enlisting," said Staff Sgt. Pharris.

Cpl. Pharris, also on his first deployment, is serving at Kandahar Airfield as an individual augmentee supply specialist with the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, a Mississippi Army National Guard unit that assumed the responsibilities of Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan, October 17.

"As a Marine individual augmentee, I had no idea I was coming to a National Guard unit. It's been a great experience so far and I want to continue to learn and do well," said Cpl. Pharris.

Military tradition runs deep in the Pharris family, with generations of the Pharris family having served.

In addition to Cpl. Pharris' father, his mother, grandfather, and great-grandfather served in the military. His great grandfather served in the South Pacific during World War II.

Cpl. Pharris recounts one of his childhood memories solidifying his decision to join, "When my mom received an award on the parade field, I knew that I would serve. The only question that was left unanswered for quite some time was which service I would join." Cpl. Pharris enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2007, after completing high school early.

Staff Sgt. Pharris is fully supportive of his son and said, "I'm proud as hell of him and what he's accomplished. He's done very well and I'm looking forward to his promotion to sergeant. He's

**- Reunion  
Continued on pg. 22**



## - J2

### Continued from pg. 13

Our section has two contractors and we expect a third very soon.

Marcin Kaminski is from River Side, N.J. He's an Iraq veteran from the New Jersey Army National Guard. During his Iraq tour he worked as an intelligence analyst, and after his tour, decided to increase his skill by becoming a contractor and transition from the National Guard. After coming back from Iraq in 2009, Marcin looked for an opportunity and found it with L-3 Communications. He became a contractor in Apr. 2010. His skills and military background allowed him to choose the place he wanted to work and that place was Kandahar, Afghanistan. Marcin enjoys his work and happy to be working with the 184th ESC from the great state of Mississippi.

Lance Miller is from Glen Burnie, Md. He's a Navy veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom with more than eight years of service. He served on two aircraft carriers and worked in the Office of Naval Intelligence

in Washington, D.C.

As a Petty Officer 1st Class, he trained and worked as an intelligence analyst. He decided to transition to the commercial field when his military obligation was over, and became a contractor for General Dynamics in Dec. 2005. He said that he wanted to make a change and contribute more in the civilian world using his military experience and his goal is to become a government employee after his tour is done.

This is the second time Lance has worked with a National Guard unit as a contractor. He worked with fellow contractor Marcin Kaminski earlier this year. Lance joined the J-2 section in early Oct. He is part of the team that makes the intelligence section lead the way for sustainment operations.

"Our contractors have become a big asset to our section and contribute a wealth of information to the JSC-A and subordinate units," said Staff Sgt. Mark Graves, J-2 Non-Commissioned Officer-in-Charge of JSC-A. "It would be very hard to do without them. They are now part of the 184th ESC with the willingness to be 'EVER THERE'.

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# Rolling to the goal

*Student plans skate day for kids with deployed parents*

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**Source: Hattiesburg American**  
**Story by Emily Ham**

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When fourth-grader Harper Beeson was asked to set a goal to work toward this school year, he rolled with the idea.

In fact, the 10-year old is hoping to have a lot of Pine Belt students rolling by Nov. 13.

Harper, the son of Maj. Daniel Beeson and Regina Beeson, decided he wanted to organize a skate day at the Petal Roller Dome for students with parents who are currently deployed.

“Petal schools are doing this goal assignment, and I wanted to do something better, other than just reading a book and doing a poster on it, Harper said. “So I tried thinking of something really big and I asked momma what she thought I should do.”

After much discussion, the two wanted to help military families.

“I came up with the idea of a fun day for people with family who are deployed overseas,” Harper said. “(I like this project) because I just kind of like working with people other than having to do something alone. After I got the idea, I was like, ‘Lets have at it.’”

And the skate day isn’t just available to Petal schools’ students - it’s open to any child with a family member serving in Baghdad with the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command - the unit Harper’s father serves in. Regina Beeson said she couldn’t be more proud of her son.

“He is a very caring child. He is always looking to help other people and this goal just really fit his personality. He’s definitely a giver,” she said.

### **A Big Goal**

The goal - the Petal School District Military Kids Appreciation Day - has school administrators

reeling.

“My first thought was, ‘That is a big goal for a fourth-grader,’ but knowing Harper, it’s very true to his character,” Petal Elementary School Principal Kelli Brown said. “...This kid took us literally (when we asked him to set a goal,) and he is taking the things we are trying to teach our kids, and he is putting them into practice. Our goal is to empower them and hopefully (Harper) is evidence that we will be successful with that.”

Brown has asked all the principals in the school district to determine the number of students with relatives in the military and how many students are missing a parent because of deployment.

“I’m excited for him. He’s a caring kid, and I think it’s very fitting that he wants to reach out to other kids who are going through things he’s dealing with,” Brown said. “We just want to make sure that it’s a successful and fun day for him.”

After 17 years of military service, Daniel Beeson is currently serving a tour in Afghanistan.

Since his father’s deployment in August, Harper, his mom and two sisters, Jordyn, 15, and Anna, 6, keep in touch with him through phone calls and the Internet.

“It was really tough (when he first left,) then I started getting kind of used to it,” Harper said.

The family looks forward to reuniting next July.

Regina Beeson said she hopes her son’s goal helps other military families.

“This is our first major deployment, so we’re getting to know



**- Skate Day**  
**Continued on pg. 22**

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## - Reunion Continued from pg. 19

tradition with the same pride in service carried on.”

While deployment is never easy on families, both agree that being together is one of the best things about deploying to a combat zone at the same time.

“Like any dad, I worry about my son. I just wish we served in closer proximity to each other,” said Staff Sgt. Pharris.

“I love it that my dad is over here the same time as I am,” said Cpl. Pharris.

Stress is abundant in combat zones, but the Pharris men have found effective ways to deal with it. Both father and son enjoy working out in their off time, honing their video game skills, and playing cards.

Pamala Pharris, as wife and mom, maintains their Missouri household and tends to the family farm, where they raise sheep and South African Boer goats.

“She’s very supportive and she’s the queen when it comes to sending care packages,” said Cpl. Pharris.

When asked if he had any goals during this deployment, Staff Sgt. Pharris said, “I came to Afghanistan to make a tangible difference. Hopefully, 20 years from now, someone will remember an American who was here and be thankful their life is better.”

The family reunion was facilitated by Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan and Nangarhar Agri-Business Development Team IV.

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## Maj. Overby Promoted to Lt. Col.



Col. Richard P. Martin | JSC-A

Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher, commander of Joint Sustainment Command - Afghanistan, promotes Maj. Nickie A. Overby to the rank of lieutenant colonel outside United States Forces Afghanistan headquarters in Kabul. Overby is a resident of Ocean Springs and serves as assistant principal at Bay High School in Bay St. Louis. Both are members of the Mississippi Army National Guard’s 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



DoD Photo

Gen. David H. Petraeus (left), commander of the International Security Assistance Force, pauses for a photo with Maj. Nickie A. Overby in Kabul.

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## - Skate Day Continued from pg. 21

other families,” she said. “We’re all getting used to it, and forming relationships. I’m hoping that this will help more of the families unite and get to know each other a little better, especially the kids.”

### Community support

Petal Superintendent John Buchanan said Harper already has the entire school district behind him. “The district will certainly support him, and if I know anything about this community, I know he will get overwhelming support from this community, as well,” Buchanan

said. “This is something I want to help become a reality.”

Buchanan said he was floored when he heard about Harper’s goal.

“(I thought) ‘Wow.’ How cool is that for a 10-year-old to be thinking about others in this day and age when a lot of us have become self-centered. For him to consciously think about others in the same boat he is in is amazing,” Buchanan said. “Harper’s goal is the best thing going on in the school district right now.”

Nowadays, Harper and his mother spend after school hours delivering letters to local businesses and seeking support.

“Right now, we’re trying to get local businesses to sponsor in any way they can whether it be in money donations, food, drink or anything they want the kids to have like pencils for goody bags,” Regina Beeson said. “I just want it to be a fun-filled day where the kids can just be kids and for two hours - that day - not have to think about their mom or dad or whoever is in their family that is deployed.

“We sometimes forget that it’s hard for the children to adapt, and I think they kind of get overlooked. We don’t mean to (overlook them,) it just happens because we’re trying to keep things so normal and routine.”

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# Married Couple Serves and Deploys Together to Afghanistan

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*Story & Photo by Sgt. Kenny Hatten  
JSC-A Public Affairs*

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KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Overseas deployments affect many married couples, especially during the holiday season, but two married Mississippi Army National Guard Soldiers have found a way to keep their marriage healthy throughout their deployment.

Sgt. David Nelson and his wife, Spc. Tamara Nelson, both of the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, live and work together as part of Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan, based at Kandahar Airfield.

“We’re still newlyweds; we were married July 1st,” said Tamara.

“This deployment is our honeymoon,” said David. “Not every couple gets an all-expense paid vacation to an exotic location like this. It’s actually pretty cool.”

David works as an automated logistics specialist, tracking essential food shipments across Afghanistan, and Tamara is the Admin NCO (Administrative Non-Commissioned Officer) for HHC (Headquarters and Headquarters Company). She maintains unit records and processes incoming and outgoing mail.

David has served more than 12 years in the Guard. Tamara has 11 years of service. When not deployed, the Nelsons both work at the Combined Support Maintenance Shop (CSMS) at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, located just south of Hattiesburg.

“I’ve been doing the same thing since day one,” said David, “and I like to think I’m pretty good at it by now.”

Tamara said she started out as a flute player in the

41st Army Band, and she also worked as the unit librarian. She later transitioned to CSMS, where she worked as a production controller.

“I joined because I loved the band, and I soon discovered many more opportunities and support systems from my National Guard family,” said Tamara.

The couple is now deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, and they say that life here is different, but some things are almost like home.

“We keep busy during the day,” said Tamara. “It took a little while to get used to the 12-hour days and walking all the way to and from our housing unit, but I really can’t complain.”

Both said that being deployed together is definitely better than deploying separately.

“I’ve been deployed before, but it’s definitely different this time, because now instead of the platoon sergeant telling me what to do, I have all that AND the wife telling me what to do,” David said, laughing.

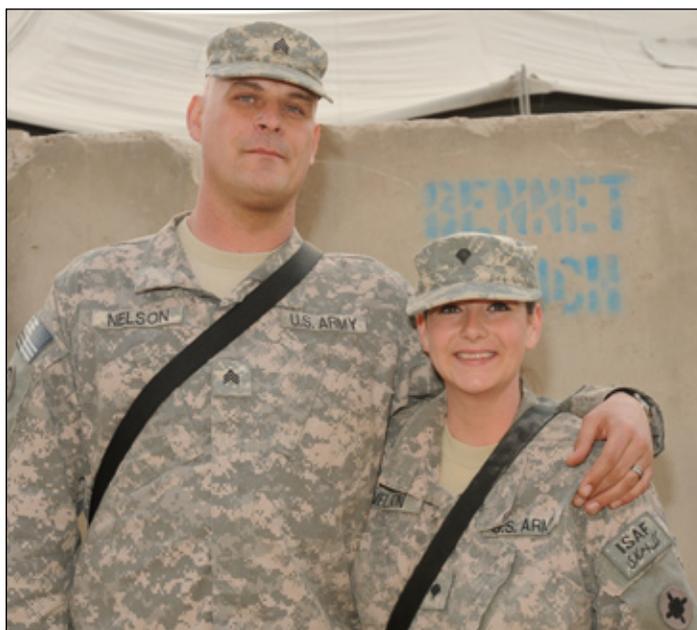
Not every military couple gets to share quarters during a deployment, and David acknowledged

that their unit was instrumental in making their living arrangements possible.

“Our command did something for us that I can be nothing but thankful for,” said David. “We get to see each other every day, we get to go do stuff together, and our command has been extremely accommodating, and I’m really happy about that.”

Tamara said that, during their off-time, they try to go out and eat together or catch a movie whenever they have the chance.

“KAF is really not that bad,” said David. “We even have restaurants and coffee shops here on the



**- Nelson  
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## Staff Judge Advocate

### *Contributions from Illinois Army National Guard website*

As the year draws to an end, and after the Christmas holidays are over, taxes are the next thing on many of our minds. With that said, below are some helpful resources to make it through this tax season while in a deployed environment.

#### **Getting started**

If you are a Service member or are filing on behalf of one, there are a few things you should know before getting started.

- Access your tax statement online. As a member of the Armed Forces, you can view and print out your W2 form before it is mailed to you. Go to myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. You will need your personal identification number (PIN) to

access your W2 form.

- Be sure to have power of attorney if filing for a deployed Service member. Attach a copy of your power of attorney to your tax return. You may use IRS Form 2848, Power of Attorney and Declaration of Representative. The form can be found at [www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f2848.pdf](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f2848.pdf).

- Find answers to your questions on the IRS website. The IRS has a detailed tax guide for members of the Armed Forces at [www.irs.gov/publications/p3/index.html](http://www.irs.gov/publications/p3/index.html).

#### **Combat zone and hazardous duty deadline extensions**

The IRS extends filing deadlines for members of the Armed Forces for the following reasons:

- You or your spouse are serving in a combat zone or in direct support of those in the combat zone and receive hostile fire or imminent danger pay. The deadline for filing income taxes is 180 days after

your last day in the combat zone or hazardous duty area.

Go to [www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=108331,00.html](http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=108331,00.html) to see a list of combat zones. In addition to the 180 days, the extension includes the number of days left in the filing period when you entered the combat zone or hazardous duty deadline.

As discussed, getting your taxes filed is not something to stress over. Upon return to the states you will have ample time in which to file both state and federal returns. Please also keep in mind that Mississippi has state tax exclusions for time in a combat zone.

However, simply because you are serving in a “tax free zone” does not mean that you are not required to file a return. If you would like additional information or assistance with filing, please access military one source at [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com).

## **- Nelson Continued from pg. 23**

Boardwalk. It’s kind of surreal, though, because you can be eating out in a nice restaurant, but everyone around you is in uniform and has a gun.”

While they admitted that being deployed together has many advantages, the Nelsons said that it was very hard to leave their two children, 3-year old Lilli and 6-year old Kenzie.

“That part was difficult, because obviously, everyone wants to be at home with their kids,” said David, “but at the same time, and it might sound sappy, but everybody who enlists does it for a reason, and they know when they do it that this might happen.”

David said that the children are staying with his brother, Glen and his wife, Daphne, and that they are both adapting to ‘life without mommy and daddy.’”

“It’s just part of the job, and it sucks,” said David, “and you might complain about it sometimes, but you get up the next day and go right back to work again.”

Tamara said that it was hard for the girls to understand at first, especially, Lilli, the youngest, but she added that they’re both beginning to see that mommy and daddy will be back as soon as they can.

“My baby Lilli had a hard time at first because she doesn’t understand how long a ‘long time’ is,” said Tamara, “and you can show her a calendar and try to explain it to her, but it’s going to be a learning experience for her.”

One thing that really helps Lilli is having her big sister Kenzie around to help her get through things while mommy and daddy are away, said Tamara.

“Kenzie is an amazing big sister and she is helping take good care of her little sister,” said Tamara. “She is in the 1st grade. She had to change schools for the year, but has adjusted well.”

Tamara said that it’s tough, but that she feels good knowing that her children are in good hands back home.

“I miss my children more than anything,” said Tamara, “and I can’t wait to get home and get hugs and kisses.”

# 5Ks of the Month

Members of the Joint Sustainment Command Afghanistan participated in multiple 5Ks on Kandahar Airfield (KAF).

The USO sponsored the U.S. Marine Corps 235th Birthday 5K.

Heroes running for Heroes 5K was organized to

raise money for the Fisher House organization that helps military families.

The Canadian Navy hosted a 5K to not only celebrate their 100th birthday but also in support of Afghan women. All proceeds went to assisting Afghan women issues.

The Turkey Trot 5K and Australian Army 5K were both fun runs organized to boost morale on KAF.



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## 2nd Lt. Harvey Promoted

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*Story & Photos by  
Sgt. Kenny Hatten  
JSC-A Public Affairs*

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**Maj. William T. Smith promotes 2nd Lt. Harvey.**

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – 2nd Lt. Jonathan Harvey, of the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command was recently promoted to 1st Lt. at a ceremony held at Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan headquarters, Nov. 15.

The Tylertown, Miss., native is currently assigned as the Human Resources Operations Branch (HROB) deputy officer in charge. His responsibilities include receiving and reporting all human resource data throughout Afghanistan, as well as coordinating with other sections

on deployment and redeployment plans for unit personnel.

Harvey has served in the Mississippi Army National Guard for more than three years, and said that he was motivated to become an Army officer by the events of 9/11.

Now deployed for the first time in Afghanistan, Harvey said that the environment here is dusty but tolerable. “It’s a dust bowl here, but my work environment is a place I can call home,” he said. “Just having my co-workers to talk with throughout the day helps to take my mind off the fact that I’m not back home.”

Harvey said that, while his job can be very demanding, he enjoys

meeting the challenges that come with his responsibilities. “Our section contributes a lot to our mission here,” he said. “Among other things, we handle the mail for the entire Combined Joint Operational Area in Afghanistan, and making sure that Soldiers get their mail is one of the biggest jobs here.”

Harvey graduated from Tylertown High School in 2005, and later attended Alcorn State University, where he earned his bachelor’s in accounting in 2008.

Back home, Harvey enjoys spending time with his family and attending high school football and basketball games.



**(From the left) Maj. William T. Smith, Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey L. Riggs congratulate 1st Lt. Jonathan Harvey upon his promotion.**



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## Obama Greets JSC-A Soldiers in Afghanistan

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*Photo by Capt. Mark Walter  
401st AFSB Public Affairs*

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BAGRAM AIRFIELD, AFGHANISTAN - President Obama meets Maj. David L. Padgett and Maj. Carlos J. Melendez of the 401st Army Field Sustainment Brigade while visiting Bagram Airfield Dec. 3.

# Sustainment Soldiers in Southern Afghanistan Unite, Work Around the Clock to Tackle Holiday Mail Surge

 *Story & photos by  
Natalie Cole, 1TSC Public Affairs*

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – For most in the United States, the holiday season brings time to celebrate and reconnect with loved ones. However, for Soldiers and civilians working Army postal operations in southern Afghanistan, the holiday season brings a two-month-long deluge of packages, cards, and letters averaging 70,000 pounds a day and peaking at 125,000 pounds a day.

Known as the holiday mail surge, the influx of packages sent to deployed areas happens each year from Nov. 1 to Jan. 1, explained 1st Lt. Jennifer Yurk, the 1st Theater Sustainment Command-Kuwait officer in charge of the Postal Assessment and Assistance Team for Afghanistan.

Postal teams have projected the 2010 holiday mail surge will bring an approximately 250 percent increase in the volume of mail coming into Afghanistan, said Yurk. Bagram Air Field in the North receives more than half of the influx, while KAF takes in the other portion of the surge.

During the regular season, mail is more of a mid-level priority for many leaders, who are typically focused on procuring the food, ammunition, and equipment - the beans and bullets - needed to complete their missions, said Maj. Todd Smith, Human Resources Operation Branch officer in charge for the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command.

However, once November hits, Smith said the mail and Army Post Office operations climb the list of many leaders' priorities. "We know, during this time period, we're a hot item. We're a hot commodity. If

anything goes wrong, [leaders] know it," said Smith, from Petal, Miss.

The 184th ESC is a Mississippi National Guard unit that assumed responsibility for the Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan in Oct. As part of their mission, the 184th ESC oversees Army postal operations in southern Afghanistan with support from the 43rd Sustainment Brigade out of Fort Carson, Colo.

The 184th ESC and the 43rd SB on KAF receive hands-on support from civilians and active duty and Reserve Soldiers with the 328th Human Resources Company. Personnel with the 328th HRC receive and sort the mail at the KAF APO, the site where all the mail for southern Afghanistan comes before being sent out to forward operating bases or being distributed to units in Kandahar.

To help the JSC-A tackle the holiday mail surge, the 1st TSC volunteered to send in some reinforcements from Kuwait to help pitch and sort mail alongside personnel with the 328th and other augmentees that came from units within Afghanistan.

"We got the augmentees in from the 1st TSC, we've gotten the local military augmentees, we've adjusted the contracts to provide more contract personnel. We've worked with the 1st TSC to procure additional supplies: Packing tape, bubble wrap," said 2nd Lt. Bryan Rushing, Postal Operations officer in charge for the 184th.

Such collaboration of sustainment units within the theater is vital to delivering holiday packages to the tens of thousands of Soldiers in the region, Smith added.

The planning for the transportation, delivery, security, and manpower



**Spc. Carlos Caballero, 1st Sustainment Brigade, 1st Theater Command, hustles as he sorts a holiday package at the Army Post Office on Kandahar Airfield. Thanksgiving day, Nov. 25th.**

needed to handle the holiday mail surge starts in May each year, with adjustments made along the way. Smith, who was a high school football coach for 15 years before joining the Active Guard Reserve, likened holiday mail planning to Football season. "We're in the play offs right now. This is our play off-season. Once January, February gets here, we'll be in preseason until the next season."

Because the 184th arrived in Kandahar in October, Smith said much of the holiday mail plans were already in place. "Once we got here, we had to make a lot of adjustments to that plan based on some of Lt. Rushing's analysis and different changes like the extra zip codes that were added, the extra locations where mail is coming in. So we had to take that holiday plan and adjust it to fit what's going on in the theater right now," he explained.

Rushing, from Madison, Miss., described himself as a planner by

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## - Mail

### Continued from pg. 27

nature and said he enjoys figuring out ways to adapt to the changes that influence the delivery of holiday mail.

Spc. Carlos Caballero, with the 1st Sustainment Brigade, 1st TSC, volunteered to travel from Camp Arifjan, Kuwait to the APO in Kandahar to sort the heaps of mail in the APO yard. From Phoenix, Caballero said he wanted to help sort mail during the busiest time of the year “just to get a new experience; to try something new.”

Personnel with the 328th HRC do much of the holiday mail sorting during brisk afternoons in an outdoor lot amidst dust clouds and the beeps of oversized forklifts that bring in a steady stream of pallets stacked 8-feet high with packages. As each pallet hits the ground, the postal personnel hustle to break open the pallet and start tossing and sorting the packages into the appropriate bins, which are marked for different FOB’s and units in Kandahar.



**An oversized fork lift brings in pallets of mail in the background as a postal worker with the 328th Human Resources Company sorts holiday packages at the Army Post Office on Kandahar Airfield.**

“It takes a little getting used to, just to know where everything kind of goes, how the operation is run,” Caballero said about joining in the hustle and bustle. “You just gotta really get used to where everything is at because everything is well organized, has its set places, but the personnel here - whether it’s the civilian or the military side - they’ll help you out.”

In addition to working long hours and exerting the energy to heave large boxes into bins, certain augmentees and permanent personnel at the Kandahar Army Post Office face risks as they leave the security of the base to escort packages, according to Yurk.

“APO workers help in their own way to provide that holiday cheer to the Soldiers ... [by] getting out to these forward operating bases. A lot of the postal workers actually have to go out from their bases and escort any accountable mail to drop it off at these bases that are out in the middle of nowhere, so they’re facing a little bit of danger to deliver that package out to them,” she said.

While there are shops and post exchanges where personnel can buy necessities and even souvenirs in Kandahar, those at FOB’s do not have such shopping opportunities, making holiday packages a welcome sight. Additionally, even for personnel who have access to shopping facilities, mail from home has an unbeatable personal quality, Smith said.

“For me, for instance, it’s a lot different just going and buying yourself something at the PX versus opening a package that came from your wife or your mother. There’s not only the things that you need – snacks, shaving cream, stuff like that. There’s also the sentimental reasons: Your wife at home or kids at home are taking care of you,” said Smith, who said he recently received his

holiday packages in the mail.

“And you also get schools that will send you care packages, so it makes the Soldiers feel good whenever they get something from a school, a city, or a local church that [shows] ‘hey we’re there, we’re supporting you, we want to do anything we can to help [make] your life a little bit easier while you’re here.’ It’s more of a sentimental thing. I know it is for me,” he said.

In addition to the sentiment, holiday and care packages contain necessities that can quickly sell out on crowded bases, Rushing said. “There are things you can’t get here that people do ship to you. For example, I mean, they’re always running out of shaving cream or whatever, so those kinds of things you can get from home that you can’t necessarily get here. Even though they do have things here, you can’t get everything here,” Rushing added.

With thousands of packages containing holiday goodies and coveted necessities circulating on planes, on pallets, in convoys, and in Army post offices, everyone working in postal this time of year has to stay focused to survive the push.

“The motivational factor for me [is] to support the troops. They may have their beans and their bullets, but if their mind is worried about how their family is doing back home or if they haven’t heard from their family back home, emotionally, they cannot do their mission as well,” Smith said.

“But if they’re getting those letters, cards, packages from their family, it makes them feel better. It connects them to home. It gives them that motivation to work harder that day and achieve the ultimate goal which is to go home safely,” Smith said. “So, I feel like we play an important role in that factor of getting the Soldiers emotionally ... fit like they should be, to be able to carry out their mission.”

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# Lifeliners Assume Command in Afghanistan

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*Story by Sgt. 1st Class  
Pete Mayes, 101st Sustainment  
Brigade Public Affairs*

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – The 101st Sustainment Brigade officially took control of logistical operations from the 82nd Sustainment Brigade during a Transfer of Authority ceremony.

With that ceremony, the “Lifeliners” have assumed operational control of logistics for RC-East, Central and North. For Brigade Commander Col. Michael Peterman, the mission is more than about moving cargo and supplies from one route to another.

“We must give (the Afghan people) life skills. We have to help the Afghan National Army build and hold the muscle necessary for securing their country,” he said. “As we go toward 2014, we can look them in the eye and know that we helped them build a system where they can support themselves,” he said.

Peterman is an advocate of “three-dimensional logistics” – that is, using available air and ground space to get needed cargo to Soldiers at the various Forward Operating Bases in his regions. But he also said he is an advocate of building partnerships with the Afghan people that will lead them to greater self-sufficiency.

This is the brigade’s fifth deployment in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Since assuming command of the 101st Sustainment Brigade in June 2009, everything Peterman has tried to prepare his unit for has been for



Pfc. Michael Vanpool | 101st SB PAO

**101st Sustainment Brigade Commander Col. Michael Peterman uncases the brigade colors during the Transfer of Authority ceremony at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan. The brigade officially took over operational control from the 82nd Sustainment Brigade.**

this purpose.

They spent the past 18 months preparing for their mission. One of the key themes Peterman stressed to his troops was partnership with the local Afghan populace. That meant his brigade taking a hands-on approach on helping ensure the Afghan’s economic success as well as being able to protect their own.

“We found that many of the companies here don’t hire Afghan workers. That is not supporting Gen. (David) Petraeus’ intent here,” Peterman said. “There’s a huge potential here for recruitment and growth.”

As for the overarching mission of getting supplies to the Soldiers, Peterman has a checklist of projects, including aerial delivery, fuel transport, and mail distribution. Other projects include overseeing the construction of a

Joint Management Distribution Center and working with the Afghan National Army logistics commander at FOB Dawson-Petrie.

Peterman and Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. David Thompson spent Thanksgiving Day visiting Soldiers around BAF, thanking them for what they do and for the upcoming mission.

“Many of these guys have been deployed here three or four times. It’s the least we can do for these guys,” Peterman said. “We succeed at our mission because we have good leaders and Soldiers who are a part of this.”

The commander also praised the 82nd Sustainment Brigade for helping facilitate a “seamless transition.”

**- Lifeliners  
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# Commander's Conference at Bagram Airfield

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 Story & photo by 1st Lt. Andrew B. Adcock, JSC-A Public Affairs

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BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher, commander of Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan, hosted a commander's conference at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Dec. 2-3, to welcome new members of the JSC-A team and establish overlying goals and priorities for the year ahead.

“I am extremely pleased with the interaction and discussion between commanders at all levels. While there is much to be done, this conference sets the overlying tone for our shared mission

objectives,” said Fisher.

The conference kicked off with a transfer of authority ceremony between the 82nd and 101st Sustainment Brigades. The event lasted two days and included briefings from major directorates within JSC-A.

At the conclusion of the conference, Fisher presented commander coins to enlisted Soldiers of the 101st Sustainment Brigade, who provided administrative support and refreshments for the event.



Participants of the JSC-A Commander's Conference at Bagram Airfield gather for a group photo. There were more than 50 people in attendance for the two-day conference.

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## - Lifeliners Continued from pg. 29

“This is what professionals do. We've been ripping together for almost one year. Anytime you have two great units working together, you'll have a great hand-

off,” he said. “We want to do the same for our replacement when they arrive.”

Sustainment brigades in general do not receive the media attention of their counterparts in brigade combat teams, or aviation units. To a certain degree, Peterman said

that's fine with him.

“We're the quiet professionals. We know who we are and we don't need the fanfare,” he said.

“The smile on a Soldier's face when he receives his mail, or food on the table ... that's our thanks,” Thompson said.

## Fontaine Visits 401st AFSB



Story & Photos by 1st Lt. Andrew B. Adcock  
JSC-A Public Affairs



KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Maj. Gen. Yves Fontaine, Commanding General of Army Sustainment Command (ASC), visited Soldiers from the 4th Battalion, 401st Army Field Support Brigade (AFSB) during a recent battlefield circulation to Kandahar Airfield (KAF) on Nov. 5.

The day's events included a tour of facilities at the AFSB and surrounding localities at KAF. Civilian and military partners from all components were on hand as Fontaine and staff went through hands-on demos and systems briefings.

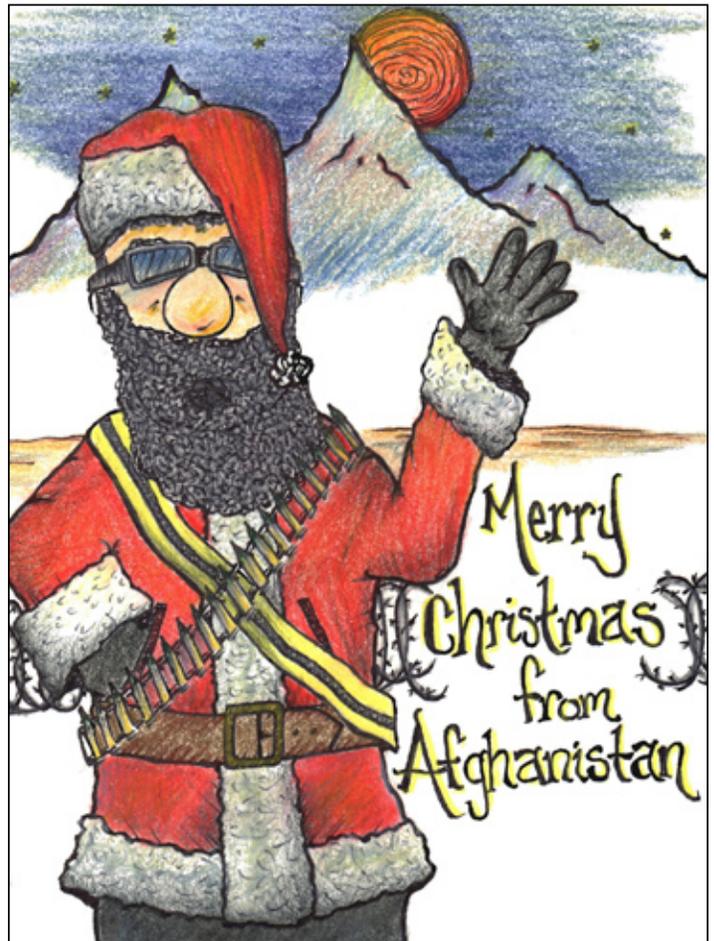
Select members of the 401st AFSB were also honored at an awards ceremony. Bronze stars were awarded to Command Sgt. Maj. Donald P. Richardson and Sgt. 1st Class Floyd D. Bond. Mr. William P. Smith, Department of the Army Civilian, was also honored with the Superior Civilian Service Award.

## Carter Takes Charge of 184th ESC HHC



Sgt. Kenny Hatten | JSC-A PAO

Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher, commander of the 184th ESC, passes the unit guidon (flag) to incoming Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) commander, Capt. Tawaski Carter during the change of command ceremony held at Kandahar Airfield.



1st Lt. Andrew B. Adcock, JSC-A Public Affairs

# Care Packages Brighten Holidays



Story by Sgt. Kenny Hatten, JSC-A Public Affairs

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Soldiers of Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan (JSC-A) received care packages from a variety of civic, charitable and church organizations, just in time for the holidays.

“There is a lot of support for the troops out there,” said Capt. Gary Crist, Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) commander, “whether the individual Soldier is signing up on his/her own with support websites and the like, or if it’s a church group or other organization reaching out to the Soldiers.”

There are a number of websites that send care packages to troops overseas, as well as church groups and civic organizations that

conduct care package drives, and they are especially active during the holiday season.

“We have a very diverse unit that has a lot of connections throughout the state of Mississippi and the rest of the country,” said Crist, “and they have been in contact with the local VFWs (Veterans of Foreign Wars), churches, school districts and even some individual school classes to coordinate care package drives for the Soldiers over here.”

Many members of the unit are also members of the groups that are supporting the troops, said Crist.

“Temple Baptist Church in Hattiesburg has its Military Ministry Team that started year-round operations about three years ago in support of military family members and deployed Soldiers,”



1st Lt. Andrew B. Adcock | JSC-A PAO (Left to Right) Religious Programs Specialist 2nd Class Petty Officer Susan Pitterman, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Fintan Kilmurray and Spc. Robert Malone help load 39 care packages to deliver to the chaplain ministry center on Nov. 29. The packages were donated by Sacred Heart Catholic Church of D'Iberville, Miss.

said Crist, “and we have three church members in JSC-A who saw the deployment as a little extra incentive to make sure that everyone in the unit was able to get care packages and support from back home.”

Other groups from Miss. that have contributed to JSC-A include: Jones County Cattlemen’s Association, Gilbert’s Home Health and Hospice (Flowood), First Church of God (Laurel) Hinds County Beef Association, Laurel Gymnastics and Cheer, Petal-Harvey Baptist Church, Jones County Schools, Jones County Economic Development Authority, Petal Primary School, Oak Park Elementary School



1st Lt. Andrew B. Adcock | JSC-A PAO

Members of the JSC-A J5 Plans section receive multiple care packages from the West Jones Elementary Parent Teacher Organization.

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## - Care Packages Continued from pg. 32

(Laurel), Wayne County Schools, Park Place Christian Academy (Brandon), Rosedale Missionary Baptist Church, Benton Academy, American Red Cross Youth (Laurel), Byram Middle School, Bay Springs Community Center Missionary Baptist Church, Cub Scout Pack 329 (Brandon), Co-Lin Community College Nursing Students, VFW Post 3036 (Hattiesburg), Methodist Rehab (Jackson).

Outside of the state of Miss. JSC-A Soldiers received support from Jefferson State Community College (Birmingham, Ala.), Frito Lay (Sterling Heights, Mich.), City of Council Bluffs, Iowa, Fellowship Square (Mesa, Ariz.), Bartlett Woods Church of Christ (Arlington, Tenn.), 4H Club Just Horsing Around (Earlton, N.Y.), Cairo Chamber of Commerce (Cairo, N.Y.), American Legion #983 (South Cairo, N.Y.), East



1st Lt. Andrew B. Adcock | JSC-A PAO

**Members of JSC-A pose for a group photo as they display gratitude for the Christmas gifts received from Byram Middle School.**

Valley Military Support Group (Chandler, Ariz.), Royal Oak Farm (Harvard, Ill.), Herobox.org, AnySoldier.com, OpGratitude.com, BooksForSoldiers.com, AdoptausSoldier.org, and many other organizations.

“The level of support is highly visible when you look at our postal operations,” said Crist. “There is no other unit on Kandahar Airfield that

gets more mail than JSC-A, and it’s really nice to know that there are so many folks back home supporting what we do.”

Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan is comprised of Soldiers from the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, a Mississippi Army National Guard unit that deployed to Afghanistan in early October.

## 145th TTOE Arrives in Afghanistan to Work With JSC-A



*Story & Photo by 1st Lt. Andrew B.*

 *Adcock JSC-A Public Affairs*

The 145th Transportation Theater Opening Element (TTOE), a U.S. Army Reserve unit out of Anniston, Ala., arrived in Afghanistan in mid-November. Led by Maj. Hap McConnell and Master Sgt. David Harmon, the unit is composed of senior staff operators from many states that utilize various movement data systems to support sustainment operations and missions throughout Afghanistan. The mission of the 145th TTOE is to track all movements of U.S. and Coalition forces.

# December Birthdays

The JSC-A would like to wish the  
following people a  
**Happy Birthday!**



Capt. William Austin  
Sgt. Billy Barnes  
Maj. Richard Bennett  
Mr. Timothy Bingham  
Lt. Col. William Causey  
Pfc. Glenn Caylor  
Spc. Kenya Clark  
Mr. Henry Cogan  
2nd Lt. Nicholus Cook  
Sgt. 1st Class William Davis  
Petty Officer 2nd Class Jamaiel Dickerson  
Spc. Romel Gibbs  
Staff Sgt. Mark Graves  
Sgt. 1st Class Purvis Gray  
1st Lt. Rodney Hall  
Maj. William Harlow  
Sgt. 1st Class Jerome Harris  
Petty Officer 2nd Class Orville Hentley  
Capt. Gerald Hodges

Mr. Joseph Lavery  
Sgt. 1st Class Franklin McLelland  
Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Michael  
Staff Sgt. Timothy Moore  
Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brian Morris  
Master Sgt. Bobby Patrick  
Mr. Kenneth Patterson  
Tech Sgt. Jibri Perry  
Staff Sgt. Hope Poole  
Tech Sgt. John Price  
Master Sgt. Joshua Robinson  
Sgt. 1st Class George Scanlin  
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert Smith  
Sgt. 1st Class Brian Speagle  
Capt. Andrew Stewart  
Tech Sgt. Michael Trekas  
Spc. Jerrika Turner  
Lt. Col. Myron Vanlandingham  
Maj. Robert Watras